

August 1, 1960

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Dear George:

Going over various papers on file I realize that I had not yet responded to the copy of the paper Möller which you had so kindly sent me in May. I found this most interesting to read and I hardly have to tell you that this is an important contribution but I am not sure just yet how this should be fit into any general scheme. The one experimental point I might ask about is whether the humoral antibodies obtained against spleen cells of new born CBA mice were also demonstrated to be cytotoxic against the adult cells. I would suggest that this might be a useful corroboration with the idea that their resistance to cytotoxicity has nothing to do with the lack of the corresponding antigen.

Do you recall whether mice make a fetal hemoglobin? In species which do it would be interesting to correlate the shift in hemoglobin with the development of the red cell antigens.

In the interpretation of tolerance which I prefer, based on the easy destruction of reacting, potentially antibody forming-cells, I might have expected the inverse of the correlation that you actually found; namely that the ease of inducing tolerance would be associated with a high sensitivity of ABF tissues to the cytotoxic effect of an inverse antigen antibody reaction. Your findings clearly do not support this prophecy and I would be interested to know how you would interpret the relationship at the present time.

Esther and I are looking forward to seeing you at Bar Harbor. Congratulations on your recent award.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg